AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on line 7 of page 1 of the specification, as follows:

For data transfer between the nodes of a network, a wide variety of protocols have been devised which differ in many characteristics. In order to be able to process data transferred according to such different protocols in a common fashion at the physical layer of a network node (e. g. layer 1 of the OSI model), the SFP agreement (Small Form factor Pluggable ~~(FSP)~~ (SFP) Transceiver Multi-Source Agreement (MSA)) was established in the year 2000 between a large number telecommunication infra-structure manufacturers, which defines mechanical characteristics of a plug-in module and of a socket for receiving the module as well as electrical characteristics of communication signals which are exchanged between plug-in module and socket. While the sockets may be regarded as part of a node, the plug-in modules each form a terminal of a transmission line which extends from one node to an adjacent node.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on line 19 of page 7 of the specification, as follows:

In the embodiment of Fig. 2 the converter units 12,15 are only adapted to be connected to a single socket [[3]] 2. Accordingly, converter units for all protocols that are to be supported at a given socket must be held available for all sockets. This is appropriate if the number of protocols to be supported-and, hence, the number of converter units-is not excessive and a very high degree of flexibility concerning the number of plug-in modules that use a same protocol and are to operate at the plug-in module frame 1 is to be achieved. If, in the limit case, each socket [[3]] 2 has one input converter unit 12 and one output converter unit 15 assigned to it for every protocol that is to be supported, sockets 2 may quite arbitrarily be equipped completely with plug-in modules 3 using a first protocol, completely with plug-in modules 3 using a second protocol or any combination of numbers of plug-in modules 3 using different protocols.